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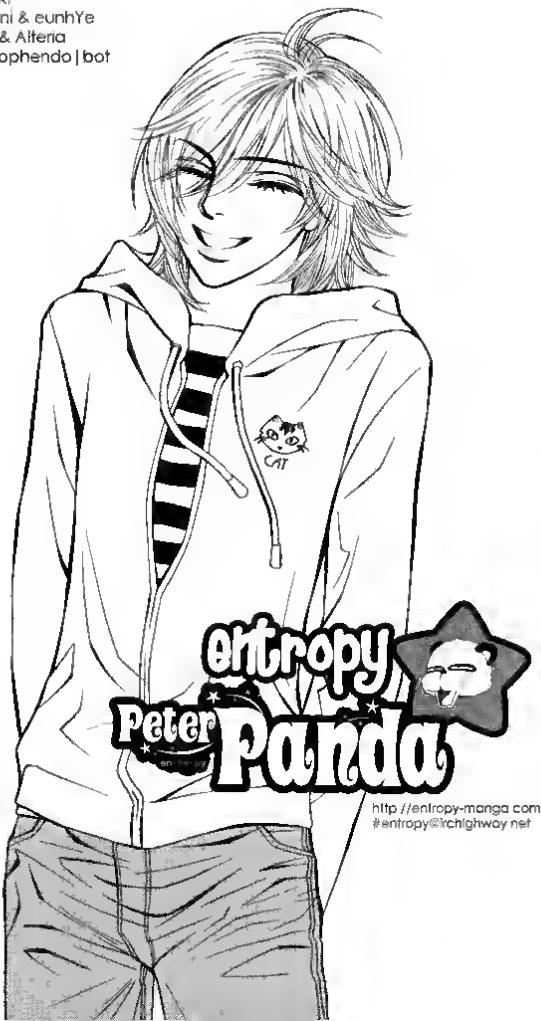
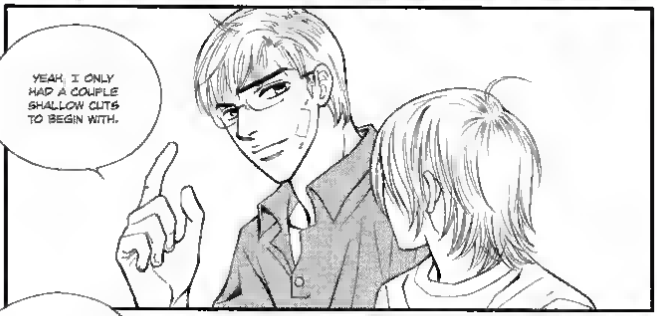
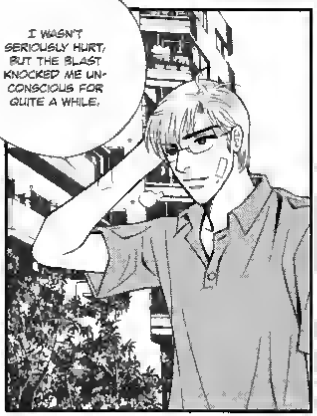
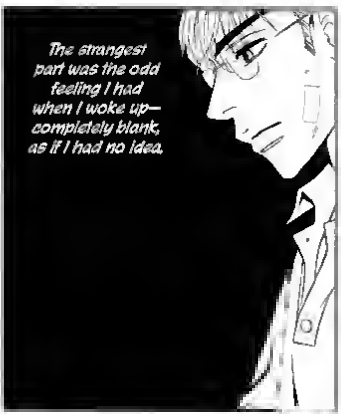


HAVE YOUR INJURIES FROM THE BROKEN WINDOW HEALED BY NOW?


YEAH. I ONLY HAD A COUPLE SHALLOW CUTS TO BEGIN WITH.


I WASN'T SERIOUSLY HURT, BUT THE BLAST KNOCKED ME UNCONSCIOUS FOR QUITE A WHILE.


The strangest part was the odd feeling I had when I woke up—completely blank, as if I had no idea.

That feeling lasted for a long time afterward.
And every time I saw the kids together, that feeling came back, stronger than ever.
Perhaps that's because the kids had completely changed. I'd never seen them so at ease before.
ARE YOUR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS WORKING OUT?
YES. MY LANDLADY WAS PLEASED THAT THE LEAKY ROOF WAS REPAIRED
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ON YOUR OWN?
OF COURSE I'VE LIVED ON MY OWN FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
AND LATELY, EVEN WHEN I'M ALONE, I DON'T FEEL AS LONELY AS I DID BEFORE

NOW YOU HAVE FRIENDS AT SCHOOL.
AND, SOMEHOW, YOU'VE FOUND TWO NEW BROTHERS
AND MORE THAN ANY OF THESE, I HAVE YOU

ACTUALLY, RUI...
THERE IS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CONFESS

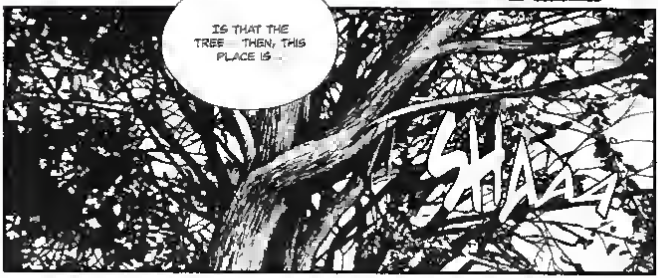
AFTER I TELL YOU THIS, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FURIOUS WITH ME AND EVEN RESENT ME A LOT
THAT MAKES ME HESITATE, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH SOONER OR LATER

IT'S ABOUT...
...THAT PERSON YOU'VE WANTED TO MEET FOR TEN YEARS NOW

HEY, SANGWOO, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IF WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE FUN, SHOULDN'T WE TAKE RUI, TOO?
WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE THE TWO OF YOU NEED TO VISIT AGAIN, AT LEAST ONCE.
A PLACE WHERE HAPPY, WONDERFUL MEMORIES AND HEART-ACHE AND SORROW COEXIST.
A PLACE WHERE YOU ONCE USED TO PLAY HAPPILY.

A NIGHT CLUB...?
SMACK
SCREEEE
I'LL BE WAITING HERE
YOU GUYS TAKE YOUR TIME...
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HUH?

HEY. HEY!
TAK TAK
WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWER~
OH...


IS THAT THE TREE... THEN, THIS PLACE IS...
SHAA

skvvnch
skvvnch

STRANGE... IT'S BOTH FAMILIAR YET FOREIGN...
I RECOGNIZED IT AS SOON AS I SAW IT, BUT... AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I REMEMBER.
ACTUALLY THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BEEN REDEVELOPED BEYOND RECOGNITION, BUT THIS SPOT HAS PRETTY MUCH STAYED THE SAME.
BUT WHAT USED TO SEEM LIKE A VAST FIELD IS NOTHING BUT A SMALL PATCH OF GRASS, AND WHAT SEEMED TO US LIKE A GIANT TREE IS JUST A NORMAL-SIZED ONE, AFTER ALL...
BECAUSE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES ARE DIFFERENT FROM REALITY.
SHAAA

DAMN IT!
THE TEARS WON'T STOP. JABEE'S GONNA GET PISSED AGAIN...
...!!
CRY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
BUT TODAY IS THE LAST TIME

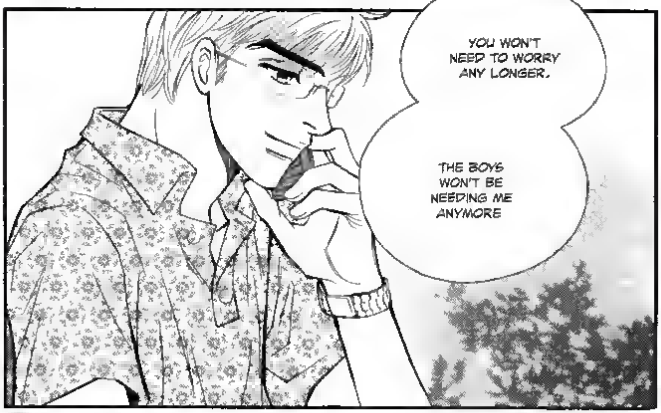
O ... OK.
JUST FOR TODAY.

IT'S WEIRD, JABEE.
WE HAVE SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF THIS PLACE, BUT SINCE OUR TIME HERE ENDED SO TERRIBLY,
I THOUGHT THAT IF I EVER CAME BACK, I WOULD BE SO SAD AND SCARED.

BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT SCARED — OR SAD.
ONLY .
HESOO — I REALLY, REALLY
YEAH.
I MISS HIM, TOO.

YES, YES
MY DEPARTURE IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEKEND
NO, IT'S BEEN MY PLEASURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH

I'VE LEARNED A LOT DURING MY STAY WITH THE BOYS
WHEN I RETURN, I'LL BE SURE TO PAY A VISIT
YES, OF COURSE


YOU WON'T NEED TO WORRY ANY LONGER.
THE BOYS WON'T BE NEEDING ME ANYMORE

EVENTUALLY, THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE REDEVELOPED, AND IT'LL CHANGE, TOO
I HEARD THERE WERE TALKS ABOUT TURNING IT INTO A SCHOOL
WHAT? THEN, THIS PLACE IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR?
BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE THE TREE
SOON, IT'S GOING TO BE REPLANTED IN OUR HOUSE IN KANGHWADO
I ASKED MY MOM FOR THIS FAVOR.
YOU TALKED TO YOUR MOM? DID YOU CALL HER?
SHE MUST'VE BEEN SO HAPPY!
EH, NOT REALLY
SHE STARTED NAGGING ME ABOUT THIS AND THAT AS IF SHE'D SEEN ME JUST YESTERDAY.

LET'S START HEADING BACK. SANGWOO'S WAITING
YEAH.

Goodbye. Even if we can never return, this place will always be our paradise— our Eden. And even if this place should disappear, it'll remain inside us forever.

I was always afraid of this. I thought that if the pain ever went away, my guilt and memory would disappear, too...
...and that I would forget you.
Strange.
That heavy burning pain I thought would never heal...
I don't feel it anymore.
But now the place that used to hurt is suddenly full and overflowing with ..
...something new .
You know what it is, don't you, Hesoo?

Because of this, I'll be OK.
Because of this, I'm starting to believe I can endure these slowly-passing days without you.

I'll meet you again someday ... for sure.
This time, I'll never lose you again, and we'll be together for a long, long time.
So wait for me just a little longer.

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT PAINS MY HEART. IT PAINS ME!
OH, THE TRAGEDY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HANSAE?
BACK IN THE THEATER... WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS CRYING, YOU SAID THE MOVIE WAS BORING AND FELL ASLEEP!
AND THEN YOU STARTED SNORING! YOU CALL YOURSELF A MOVIE BUFF! HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!
YOU EVEN DROOLED!
SHUT UP!
DO YOU KNOW HOW EMBARRASSING IT WAS FOR US? WASN'T IT, RUI?
I NEVER WOULD'VE HAD TO SIT THROUGH SUCH A STUPID MOVIE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU GUYS!
A proper movie should have blood! And dead bodies!

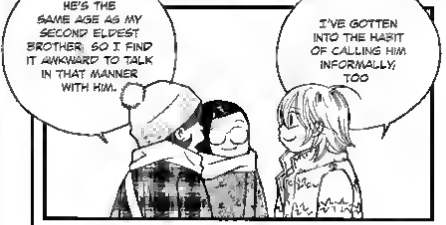
AND BESIDES, I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE MOVIE! I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR LIVES, YOU WRETCHES.
DON'T YOU GET IT? WHEN WE START SCHOOL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW... WE'LL BE THIRD-YEARS.
SIGH
YOU NEVER STUDY, ANYWAY WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT MY AUNT SAID WHEN I VISITED HER PLACE THE OTHER DAY? I TOLD HER I WAS GONNA BE A THIRD-YEAR; AND SHE SAID, "I ENVY YOU."
SHE SAID IT MIGHT SEEM TOUGH NOW, BUT LATER ON, WE'LL LOOK BACK ON THESE TIMES AS SOME OF THE BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES
EH, EH, THEN CALL YOUR AUNT OUT AND TELL HER SHE CAN SWITCH PLACES WITH ME RIGHT NOW!
HUMPH! ALL THAT TALK ABOUT THE "BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES" IS THE PLOT OF GROWN-UPS AGAINST THIRD-YEARS
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT, HUH? YOU TELL ME!
Please say something that makes sense
These stupid "plots" of hers.
Sigh

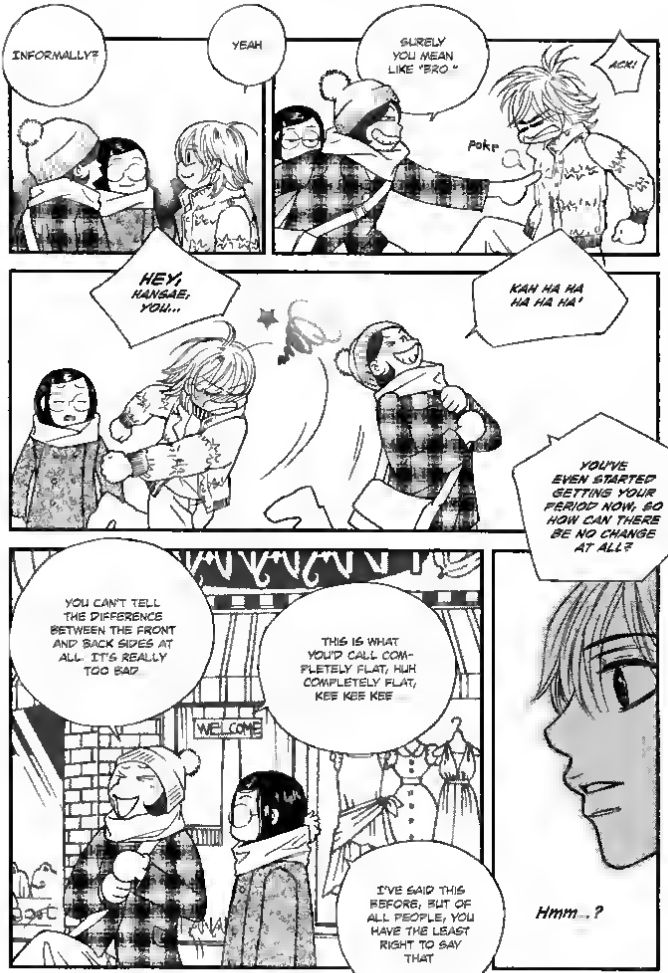
HELLO, HYAEWANG!
MR. SANGWOO IS WHAT?!
I CAN'T GO TODAY. I'M OUT WITH MY FRIENDS.
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, WE HAD PLANS TO SEE A MOVIE YEAH, IT WAS FUN.
HA HA, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIKE IT, MAYBE JABEE MIGHT. ANYWAY I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW YEP, OK. BYE!
SNAP

WHAT HAPPENED?
MR. SANGWOO HAS RETURNED TO KOREA FOR A WHILE NOW. WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE HIM TOMORROW.

OH, THE GUY WHO WAS HYAEWANG'S AND JABEE'S PERSONAL DOCTOR?
YEAH

SO YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO STOP BEING FORMAL WITH THEM?
YEAH.
HYAEWANG SAID AT SCHOOL THAT IF HE HEARS ME TALK LIKE THAT, IT MAKES IT OBVIOUS THAT HE'S REPEATING A YEAR. SO HE DOESN'T LIKE IT.


HE'S THE SAME AGE AS MY SECOND ELDEST BROTHER. SO I FIND IT AWKWARD TO TALK IN THAT MANNER WITH HIM.
I'VE GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF CALLING HIM INFORMALLY, TOO


INFORMALLY?
YEAH
SURELY YOU MEAN LIKE "BRO."
ACK!
Poke
HEY, HANSAE, YOU...
KAH HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU'VE EVEN STARTED GETTING YOUR PERIOD NOW; SO HOW CAN THERE BE NO CHANGE AT ALL?
YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FRONT AND BACK SIDES AT ALL. IT'S REALLY TOO BAD.
THIS IS WHAT YOU'D CALL COMPLETELY FLAT, HUH COMPLETELY FLAT, KEE KEE KEE
WELCOME
I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT OF ALL PEOPLE, YOU HAVE THE LEAST RIGHT TO SAY THAT
Hmm...?

What was that?
Just then, something—
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY—
I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PUSH-UP BRA

It felt as though I was about to remember something.
With a flash! Something right here.

Something that's reminiscent and warm and slightly sad... I feel like I want to see someone.

I wonder why I feel like this all of a sudden. Is this a side effect of my period?

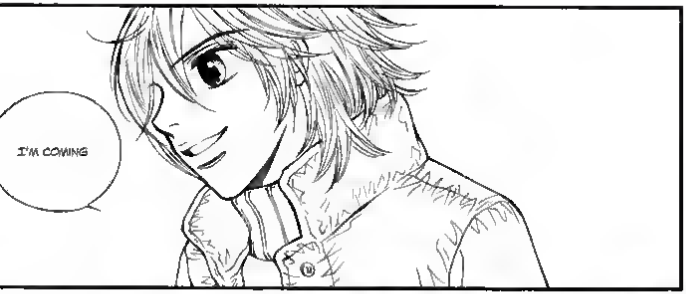
<Hansel Culinary School>

?

WHAT'S RUI DOING BACK THERE, STARING OFF INTO SPACE?

RUI! HEY, RUI!

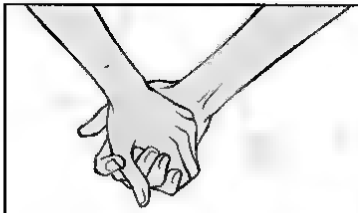
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?


I'M COMING

WHAT SHOULD WE EAT? LET'S GET SOMETHING HOT AND SPICY!
AGAIN? I WAS THINKING...

It's someday you are suddenly overwhelmed by a strange, lingering nostalgia, recall to your mind the things you have forgotten...

The way the sunlight scatters its shining rays across those ever lovely things, and the breeze that gently slips by.



The little melodies you'd hum—unaware of yourself. The warmth of another hand holding yours.

The things that make you laugh. The things you love.

The things you look forward to. The things you dream of.

Because ... as long as you have these things, you are not alone...

Coloring by Misaki Sitara

Because ... as long as you have these things, you are not alone...

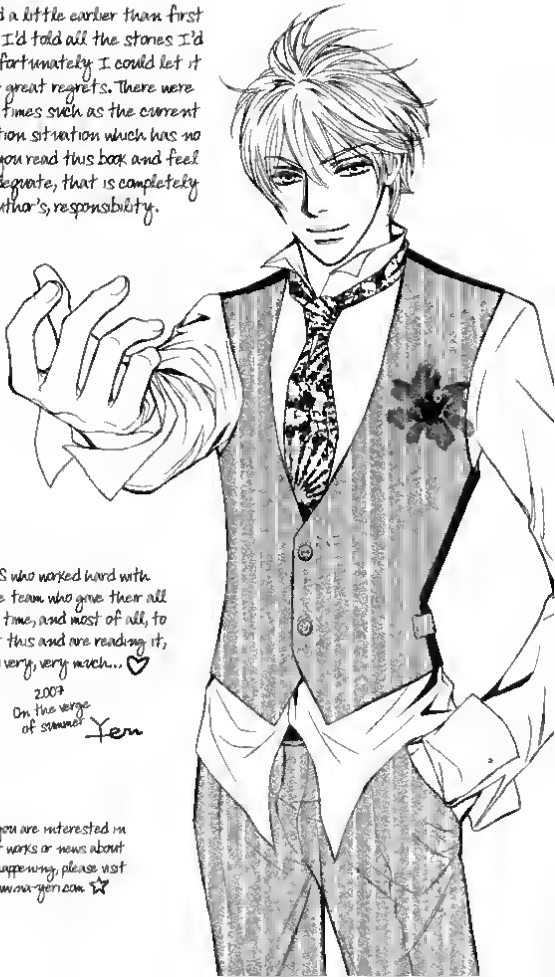
Thus was finished a little earlier than first planned, but as I'd told all the stories I'd wanted to tell, fortunately I could let it go without any great regrets. There were many difficult times such as the current manhwa publication situation which has no leeway, but if you read this book and feel that it was inadequate, that is completely my, the author's, responsibility.

To M, M2, and S who worked hard with me on this, to the team who gave their all every publication time, and most of all, to those who bought this and are reading it, thank you very, very much... ♡

2007
On the verge of summer
Yen

P.S. If you are interested in my other works or news about what is happening, please visit www.na-yen.com ☆

Coloring by M... Shiva



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